

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Scherer on August 29, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 39, in line 6, after "shaped relief" inserted "--comprising a longitudinally extending rib--.

In claim 39, in line 7, after "the two" inserted "opposing".

In claim 39, in line 7, after "longitudinal faces" inserted "--of the side cheek plates--.

In claim 39, in line 11, after "face of" deleted "a" and replaced with "--the--.

In claim 39, in line 11 after "shaped relief" deleted " . " and replaced with -- , --.

In claim 39, in line 14, after "end of the" inserted "--second category--.

In claim 39, in line 15, after "extending longitudinally" inserted "--between the side cheek plates--.

In claim 39, in lines 16-17, after "to the body" deleted " , the locking tongue being suitable for retracting the second transverse pin, for" and replaced with --adjacent the outside convex cylindrical face portion, the locking tongue resiliently retracting, --.

In claim 39, in line 18, after "inserted, and" deleted "for".

In claim 39, in line 20, after "tongue is" inserted --fixedly--.

In claim 39, in line 22, before "the second transverse" deleted "is suitable for receiving the" and replaced with --receives a--.

In claim 39, in line 23, after "second size" deleted "being greater than the first size, and" and replaced with --having a larger diameter than the first size, wherein when the second transverse pin of the first size is inserted into the second recess, the film of material remains intact and resiliently flexes to lock the second transverse pin within the second recess, and wherein--.

In claim 39, in line 24, after "second size" inserted --into the second recess--.

In claim 39, in line 24, after "to break" inserted -- , enabling the locking tongue to resiliently flex downwardly to receive and to lock the second transverse pin within the second recess--.

In claim 40, in line 3, after "received against" deleted "the" and replaced with --an--.

In claim 41, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "39" and replaced with --40--.

In claim 45, in line 1, after "wherein the" deleted "front" and replaced with --first--.

In claim 48, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "39" and replaced with --43--.

In claim 49, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "40" and replaced with --46--.

In claim 50, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "40" and replaced with --49--.

In claim 51, in line 2, after "relative to" deleted "the" and replaced with --a--.

In claim 52, in lines 2-3, after "category, in" deleted "the assembled position" and replaced with --an assembled position, --.

In claim 54, in line 1, after "wherein" deleted "a side edge of the locking tongue" and replaced with --each side edge of the locking tongue facing a respective one of the side cheek plates--.

In claim 57, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "43" and replaced with --48--.

In claim 59, in line 1, after "wherein" deleted "the" and replaced with --a--.

In claim 59, in line 2, before "extends" deleted "that".

In claim 59, in line 2, after "from the body" inserted --and--.

In claim 61, in line 1, after "wherein the" deleted "shapes in" and replaced with --shaped--.

In claim 63, in line 1, after "wherein the" deleted "shapes in relief further comprise" and replaced with --shaped relief further comprises--.

In claim 63, in line 3, after "connector against" deleted "the" and replaced with --an--.

In claim 65, in line 1, after "wherein" deleted "the" and replaced with --a--.

Canceled claims 67-69.

In claim 70, in lines 1-2, after "side studs" deleted "have a bearing surface for bearing against the" and replaced with --has a bearing surface for bearing against an--.

In claim 70, in line 3, after "cylindrical" deleted "wall" and replaced with --surface--.

In claim 71, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "39" and replaced with --40--.

In claim 71, in line 2, after "downwards from" deleted "the" and replaced with
--a--.

In claim 72, in lines 2-3, after "horizontal branch" deleted "extends vertically
above the top face of the front element" and replaced with --of the T-shape
extends vertically above a top face of the front segment--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 39, Robert Bosch (WO 01/15946) discloses the claimed connector with the exception of wherein the locking tongue resiliently retracts, enabling the second transverse pin to be inserted, causing the second transverse pin to be locked transversely in a position in which it is mounted in the second cylindrical recess, and wherein a second longitudinal end of the locking tongue is fixedly connected to the body by a film of material, and the dimensions of the film are determined so that the second recess receives a second transverse pin of a first or of a second size, the second size having a larger diameter than the first size, wherein when the second transverse pin of the first size is inserted into the second recess, the film of material remains intact and resiliently flexes to lock the second transverse pin within the second recess, and wherein inserting the second transverse pin of the second size into the second recess causes the film of material to break, enabling the locking tongue to resiliently flex downwardly to receive and to lock the second transverse pin within the second recess.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector disclosed by Robert Bosch to have the above mentioned elemental features. Furthermore, such modifications would yield unexpected and unpredictable results.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL P. FERGUSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30am-3:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MPF
08/29/08

/Michael P. Ferguson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679